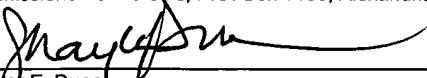


O I P E JG62  
AUG 11 2004  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
"Express Mail" mailing number: EV501977079US

"Express Mail" mailing number: EV501977079US  
Date of deposit August 17, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper and all papers and fees referred to herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Shayor E. Dunn

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sprague et al.

Group Art Unit: 2697

Serial No.: 09/443,712

Examiner: Lee, T. L.

Filed: November 19, 1999

Docket No.: 1322/8

Confirmation No.: 7620

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNICATING SIGNALING SYSTEM 7 (SS7) USER PART MESSAGES AMONG SS7 SIGNALING POINTS (SPs) AND INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) NODES USING SIGNAL TRANSFER POINTS (STPs)

\*\*\*\*\*

**RECEIVED**

AMENDMENT B

AUG 24 2004

Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action dated February 17, 2004, having a term that expired on May 17, 2004. A petition for a 3-month Extension of Time extending the deadline for responding to the Official Action up to and including August 17, 2004 is attached hereto. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following Amendments and Remarks.